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Arthur Pue Gorman.

The Intensely Interesting Past and the Possible Future of the Man from Maryland.

By J.G. Pearre

Great oaks from little acorns grow. Every form of nature once set in motion,however infinitesimal,creates waves of action, which increasing in their radius as they move outward from the center of their disturbing influence,lead to results beyond our ken.

The Legislature of one of our smallest states,Maryland,has by its vote returned to the Senate of the United States,after an absence of five years,Arthur Pue Gorman and by so doing has set in motion,not a force of nature,but a political force,whose ending no man may know,and which unless he has the vision of a seer no man may predict.

An old ship,manned by an eager,willing and lusty crew is drifting,a derelict,over the political seas,helpless in the turmoil of the waves,for lack of a navigator to take the helm,put her nose into the main and drive her safe into port. Mayhap the Legislature of Maryland has commissioned the pilot who will save the vessel and its cargo,and on some crisp November day warp her safe into dock,battered by the storms but with the flag of victory flying from the masthead.

Apart,however,from any possibilities the future may hold for Mr.Gorman his past contains enough of interest,and to spare,to make a study of him one of the most interesting and enlighten-

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ing of all men who fill the public eye of today.

Has No Prototype.

He stands alone,unexampled as a type of public man,which he , and he alone represents. We may delve into the past,we may scan the present but his prototype is not revealed. The mold was broken another has not been cast,another will not be,all others will be imitations. He created himself,and how, no man may know, but him who did the work, for locked within the inner recesses burglar proof,as they are, the hidden secret will die with the constructor,as none have ever been wrung,stolen or cajoled from this disciple of the Sphynx.

Arthur Pue Gorman was born on March 11,1839,in Howard County Md. His father's ancestors came from Ireland in 1800. His mother was of Scotch extraction,hence he is the inheritor of that great combination of bloods which has given to the world so many of its great,perhaps,its greatest men-Scotch-Irish,and in no one could the dominating characteristics of this wonderful blending show more clearly than in him.

His father,Peter Gorman,was a man reputed to have been possessed of rather choleric temper;circumscribed in his ownership of the good things of life and the progenitor of three sons,Arthur, the elder,William H.and Calvin,none of whom other than Arthur P. ever climbed above mediocrity. It is said by those who know that attrition was responsible for Mr.Gorman's famous suavity of manner,and that contact with the granite-like inflexibility of his sire gave him the polish for which he is famed,and that to his mother he owes those rudiments of gentleness and kindness which,

taking root in childhood,have grown like the creeping vine over his whole nature,mellowing it and making it most lovable to those who know him best.

It was to his mother,whom he much resembles,he paid what is said to be the one emotional tribute of his life. Of her he said, when nominated for the second time by his party caucus as their candidate for Senator, "All that I am and all that I hope to be is due to my mother and the people of Maryland."

A Self-Educated Man.

Mr. Gorman's brow is bound by no victorious wreath from some lavish Alma Mater. His education was only such as he could attain at the public schools of his county,and that ceased at an early age.

He was transplanted from the home farm into the Congress of the United States as a page;first in the House and afterward, through the influence of Stephen A.Douglas,to the Senate. Into that great school,which in those days was a representative body of intellectual,forensic and political giants,the country lad, fresh from the scent of the wild flowers and the peace of nature, was thrown. Webster,Clay,Calhoun were his preceptors in the principle of statesmanship. From this trio of the world's greatest he absorbed a knowledge of the Senate's traditions,and from them he drank in,like mother's milk,a knowledge of our Constitution that has enabled him to become an expositor,second to none, of that great charter of popular rights. He is also said to have been the private secretary of Stephen A.Douglas,and lived upon terms of greatest intimacy with him.

Few people know that Senator Gorman has a military record, ,but none the less he has,for when the National Capitol was

quaking in its shoes,as the sound of Early's raiders came closer to its gates,young Gorman was a Lieutenant of a company of volunteers,made up of employes of the Government. He has,however, never sought a pension on the strength of that service,baited his hook with it for the Grand Army vote or posed as "the man on horseback." His military sevice never elected him Governor of his state;it will never land him in the White House.

His First Appointment.

When his lanky limbs proclaimed the coming man he burst from his chrysalis of knickerbockers into the effulgence of long pantaloons,and the Assistant Postmastership of the Senate at the same time. This position he held until a too previous defense of Andrew Johnson,then on trial before the Senate,terminated his career.

Montgomery Blair of Maryland,Postmaster General under Mr. Lincoln,came to his rescue,and once again he became a servant of the people;this time as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue.

He was cast from this position into the bucolic calm of pastoral politics,and became a member of the House of Delegates of Maryland from his native County of Howard in that state of sapient public men,where he became the leader,not by virtue of his strength as an orator,nor a debator,nor by his statesmanship, but through his knowledge of men and political manipulation,acquired by his long experience in the Senate of the United States. Graduating easily from a representative of his state into a Senator thereof,and from thence into the Presidency of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal,Mr.Gorman was ripe for new honors.

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As President of the Canal he had at hand an instrument for great political power, which he utilized as a stepping stone into the National Senate over the heads of William Pinkney Whyte and John Lee Carroll who up to that time had been annointed of the people of Maryland in all that savored of political sanctity and success. He created a political revolution and out of the revolution was evolved Senator Gorman x

Practically Unknown.

When he first came to the United States Senate in 1880, he was but little known beyond the boundaries of his own state. Even the newspapers were at a loss to find much of interest to print about him. His chief claim to distinction seems to have been that he had been a ball player. It was not long however, before he began to sift down into his seat and attract the attention of his fellow Senators.

Pursuing the policy he has followed throughout life, Mr. Gorman began by making personal friends of all his colleagues from the consequential to the inconsequential, irrespective of party, and ere long he could claim all for his friends, friends who liked him, friends who would always lend him a willing ear, friends who would go out of their way to serve him.

Having established himself upon the firm basis of popularity and friendship, he was ready to reveal himself in all his natural ability and acquired equipment as a leader, and above all as a partisan leader.

As a parliamentarian he began to inspire confidence in his fellow Democrats, and respect, which eventued in fear, in the opposition. He became the Moses to the children of Israel of his own party, and led them so often through the tumultuous seas of parlia-

century difficulty that they began to look upon him as their only succor in their hour of need.

He did not then stand forth as a creator of thought, an originator of policy or a formulator of theories of statecraft. He was content to shoot the gun when loaded by others; to defer to men of greater national and party standing. In that way he worked himself into the confidence of his party without arousing the jealousies of those who for so long had been its leaders.

Became a Leader.

From these, by easy graduations, Mr. Gorman worked his way to the leadership of his party in the Senate without leaving a ruffle in the waters through which he had come. His capacity as an organizer; his resources and force as a debater; his invaluable ability as a reconciler of diverse interests, soon brought so marked a recognition of his natural and acquired merits as a partisan c chieftain that the old leaders fell back for him to step forward.

His claim to the national leadership of his party may perhaps be said to have developed its embryo at the time of the successful Cleveland campaign. That campaign opened the eyes of the people at large of both parties to the fact that a new Richmond was in the field; that a man, who knew from Alpha to Omega the ins and outs of Presidential campaigning was, in the future to be reckoned with. They saw that the old days of Democratic mistakes, lack of organization and inaction were over— mistakes and disruption which the Republican leaders always counted upon and never in vain, for under the old order of things they were inevitable. A new leader was riding the Democratic

donkey;one with the eyes of an eagle;a voice and manner as seductive as the siren's song,a seat as immovable as Centaur's, and heels tipped with steel as keen as the needle's point. No more balking no more backing,no more kicking,no more taking the bit in its hardened mouth and away for that historic animal. Its master,a consummate horseman,was on its back,and there was no way but forward.

Elected the Plow Horse.

After successive defeats for a quarter of a century Mr.Gorman lifted his party out the sloughs of seemingly never ending discomfitures and elected to the Presidency a man hardly known beyond the lines of his state as against one of the most brilliant and magnetic statesmen this country has ever produced. A plow horse with a jockey up beat the thoroughbred ridden by a butcher's boy. Not until after the smoke of the battle had cleared away was it known that the blow had been dealt by the hand in the velvet glove.

Mr.Gorman's reputation was thus established as an organizer and manager.but there was yet to develop another phase of political versatility and power. He was without a shadow of a doubt the High Lord Executioner of Mr.Lodge's Federal election ~~law~~ Bill ,that partisan measure commonly and more generally known as the force bill. Leading what was probably the most desperately fought political contest since ante bellum days,Mr.Gorman demonstrated his potency to repress a Republican majority in the Senate without the backing of an undivided minority.

His calm and adroit energy,his resourcefulness,his mastery of men,stood him in better stead than ever before,and since this may be said to be his crowning triumph,it unquestionably demonstrated his claim to stand as the most sagacious,finished and courageous party leader of his time. From then until he went down in defeat,swallowed up by that political octopus,free silver,Mr.Gorman was "facile princeps" the Coryphous of the Democratic party.

A glance at(for no man ever peered within)such a man is worthy of a moment. Physically as well as characteristically and temperamentally he is an attractive study.

About five feet nine or ten inches in height.his erect and well proportioned figure fills the eye pleasingly and as being that of a man who in his younger days had been an athlete. A head of grey hair surmounts a face once seen never to be forgotten. A Roman nose,shading a mouth of chiseled lips,firm in every line,augments the appearance of mastery suggested in his square jaw,marksman's eye and broad forehead. A smoothly shaven face throws into relief his clearly cut features and gives a first impression of clerical predisposition. In conversation a set of even,white teeth disclose under his lips,and are beacons of a smile when he so chooses,as winsome as ever wooed a vote out of a man's conscience. His handshake is a revelation to the uninitiated,and with his smile has won him more votes than his brains and sagacity. It is said in many parts of Maryland that no man ever left Mr.Gorman's smile and handshake to vote against him. In repose his face is austere and cold,and at first sight

unapproachable,but futher contemplation develops lines which dispel those that forbid. Ther is at most times an expression of melancholy in his but that would suggest that he is a romanticist, instead of the keen,alert,enthusiastic,common-sensed,adamantine politician that he is.

Gorman in Private Life.

He is a man of kindly disposition in all social relations. In his domestic life he is "sans peur,sans reproche"-a model husband,the tenderest of fathers and the most faithful and devoted of brothers. Of religion he seldom prates-the"Golden Rule"seems to be his article of belief. Temperite as an anchorite he leads a life as simple as a child's. He is a student,yet reads deeply of blue books,and chiefly the works of English and American orators and statesmen. History and such phildsophy as has been enacted into laws are the only "dear dead things confined upon an library shelf"(as Rossetti calls them) which claim his leisure and idle hours. In the current literature of the day he keeps himself thoroughly,not superficially,informed,and converses with an appreciation of its niceties that will astound one who sees in him only the imperturbable statesman.

In spite of his limited opportunities for education he has in the school of practical experience,from youth upward to the present time,had chances to gain a knowledge second to none in national methods and history of legislation,by association with the most eminent of public men and by a personal obserbation in the highest state and national councils that have so disciplied his native gifts for Government administration as to make him one of the best informed,most completely equipped and prac-

tical of statesmen. A courtly,almost differential manner,seconded by a voice which in the sweetness of its cadence invites your confidence and warms your heart toward the man who,you are led to believe,takes not only a personal,but an active interest in your affairs. One leaves him not only with a high regard for Mr.Gorman,but with a still greater one for one's self. He leads you when you think he is following. He suggests for you to appropriate. His equilateral blandness and temperamental adaptability are unsurpassed,are unsurpassable.

Wins By Earnestness.

The follower of Chicot might claim that Mr.Gorman's potency in dealing with his fellow-man is due to hypnotic influence, but the man of conservative thought and observation will solve the mystery as lying concealed in the pure private life of the sphynx-like Senator a d the ascendency of his personality,through the medium of its earnearness,when it comes into contact with that of others.

An eagle's eye,a Mirabeau-like brow, a mouth with the cold lines that marked the mighty Richelieu suggests to the observer a subtle sense of Napoleonism,and beneath his suave smile lies in wait something that insinuates the unconquerable manner of the Corsician. The epileptic impatience has,however,no part in this well rounded man's make up. Never anything but calm,self-contained in every minute of his life,he is not a follower of chance,but is guided by his unerring instincts,which seem always to lead to success,be they sprung from head or heart.

Opportunist that he is,he works to the line of Lord Byron's advice as to circumstances,when he said that they should be made "the sport of man,rather than man should be made the sport of circumstance"

In an arena where courage and settled belief are but seldom met,public life, he has demonstrated leonine courage and indomitable steadfastness. Through these forceful necessaties for a successful leader he has been enabled to dominate the irresolute of his companions,who stand in fear and trembling,as each echo of public opinion is borne to their ears. Mr.Gorman is fearful of ~~these~~ bar- things,and least of all public opinion. He is its master,not its slave. Its whims and fancies do not disturb his well balanced equanimity. Like his Excellency the Secretary of State's Mississippi hero, the lamented Jim Bludsoe, "he seen his duty a dead sure thing,and he went for it thar and then." In public questions he has always an objective,for that he heads clamor,fault finding and abuse cannot turn him until he reaches the point for which he starts.

Never Forgets a Friend.

His stanchness and fidelity in personal and political friendships are proverbial. If one has served Mr.Gorman that one will be in time served. If one has fought Mr.Gorman's battle,just so sure as that battle has been won has the reward been meted out. Ingratitude to him is an unknown and detestable quality. Should the mouse knaw asunder the meshes of this lion that mouse will feed on national,state or civic cheese until his dying day. In

In his native state the "old guard" has rallied and is still rallying to the slogan of battle, which was heard by most of them many years ago. New soldiers may enlist under his banners, but the old never desert, and difficult would be the task to find one who has not had his reward.

As a public speaker Mr. Gorman is not the eloquent finished orator of the Webster, Clay or Blaine school. He scorns seething oratory. In his efforts he aims to hit the bull's eye. His language is not the sreareotyped phraseology of convention. It is his own. He does not use it according to the hard and fast rules of rhetoric. It does not flow from his lips like milk and honey. His sentences crackle like the rapid fire of a Gatling gun. He does not attemt to persuade you; he pummels your antagonism out of existence, and taking you by the throat rams his convictions into you. There is a lack of polish and rhythm in his sentences, but his arguments are strong, rugged and well placed, dressed as they are in their plain, though earnest garb. The desideratum of public and parliamentary speaking is effectiveness. That Mr. Gorman has to a degree, as shown ~~in the~~ more particularly in the debates on the Wilson tariff compromise and the force bill. To sum up, he is a speaker of aggressiveness, force and clearness, accentuated by a voice of distinctness and extraordinary metallic resonanance.

A Dangerous Opponent.

Inparliamentary law a past master; a cool, succinct debater; dauntless and yet politic; combining consideration with aggressiveness, as the demand may be; a student who has sounded every

depth of the legislative seas; possessed of an equipoise of temper and a thorough command over himself under every urgency; a resourcefulness and tactical readiness; almost as of inspiration,he is about as dangerous a man against whom to break a lance as the public lists can contain.

Forceful as Mr.Gorman may be on the floor,it is in the cloak room that his best work is done. There his mastery of men is more effective in the personal contact than in the open argument. Matthew H.Carpenter once said of him on an occasion when Mr. Gorman wanted to lead his colleagues that "he leads us like a little child."

Apparent as is this influence no one has ever solved the riddle of his success. To him the human heart is an instrument, whose feelings must respond to the touch of the master hand and the human brain only a machine to do the behests of a power locked up in the unseen precincts of the human soul. He uses men as the painter uses his colors,bringing out by their lights and shadows the results he desires; as the sculptor uses his chisel upon the marble,from whose frozen heart he carves the images that are to make him immortal. Of men he makes a plastic thing to express his individuality. Hence into the overtures of all national enactments he pours the solemn tones of the unseen but ever present second violin.

The Party Above All.

Above all,Mr.Gorman is a partisan. It has ever been with him-his party,first,last and all the time; his party,right or wrong. When he could not lead he followed it ,even to his own defeat. In his political history he has never sulked,but when

necessary has laid aside his personal convictions,harnessed on his armor and leaped into the thickest of the fray. Whenever there has been a fight he has been out on the firing line. His party is his king,and his king can do no wrong. As chieftain or private his strong arm has ever been at his party's service.

He is never whipped. Today the fortunes of war may go against him,but to-morrow will find him renewing the fight,and if strong enough giving back blow for blow. If too weak for a stand up fight he will be found hanging on the flanks,harrying the line of transport or cutting out stragglers,ever vigilant,ever ready to deliver a stroke which will turn seeming defeat into victory. The political party that whips the Senator-elect from Maryland to-day must sleep on its arms tonight. At any time the attack might come, and come it will,and no man may know from whence. It will be sudden,it will be fierce,it will be driven home. Of all things he hates a quitter. Such have no place in the ranks of his cohorts. The best illustration of Mr.Gorman's perseverance in a fight is his returning himself to the Senate after he had been beaten, with himself as the issue. He was beaten once,and then again,but he would not stay beaten. The state that had repudiated him by upwari of 60,000 majority for the opposition party has selected him at the session of its Legislature just adjourned to be one of its Senators in the National Congress. The history of the Senate will show but few men who after an absence from its halls have returned re-elected and triumphant.

Keeps His Own Counsel.

Perhaps one of the most striking attributes of Mr.Gorman's suc-

cess is his ability to keep his own counsel. His left hand knoweth not what his right hand doeth. Locked within the grim citadel of his wonderful taciturnity, and guarded by the silent sentinels of his suspicion and self-reliance, the key concealed behind the mask of his imperturbability, his communings and secrets are safe from the eye and ear of all. He cannot be cajoled; he cannot be startled into admission of aught he would have unknown. Calm and deliberate, the circulation of his blood responds to a never-varying pulsation.

No man in public life has perhaps been more consistently and conscientiously abused than Mr. Gorman. His success has brought him many enemies, as this is an envious world, particularly the political side of it. Many stars would have held the same course as his, but in the political as well as the astrological law no two can hold the same; one has to drop from the firmament. That one has been his opponent. A strong man is perhaps better known by the number of his enemies than by numberousness of his friends, and if that law holds good Mr. Gorman is a civic Hercules.

Will He Be President.

It has long been a mooted question whether or not Mr. Gorman has had Presidential ambitions. Many who have a thorough knowledge of his course of political action, and who have known him well and closely, do not think so. It may be he would prefer to be the power behind the throne. A king maker, and not a king.

What his third election to the Senate, after an absence of five years, may mean, can be foretold by no man.

As surely as was Cagldostro,he is a fatalist and a believer in foreordination of great things. He,like his protype,the great Corsican,has a star of destiny upon which he waits;a star that watched over his birth and which has raised him from the lowest rung of the ladder to be among the foremost of his day,which has guarded him through the smoke of many battles to victory and reward,and which may yet beckon him with its glinting rays before its sets forever,to that perihelion of civic and national greatness-the Presidency of the country he loves so well,and of which he is a representative and patriotic son.

J.G.Pearre.

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